

MORE GREEN HALLOWEEN TIPS & IDEAS

- Trick or treat locally – bike or walk if you can, while being safe.
- Reuse and repurpose pumpkins for Thanksgiving décor and then compost your old pumpkins. Make a pumpkin turkey or use in natural displays for tabletops and other areas. Save the seeds for eating or planting! Don't have a compost bin at home? Find out when SWALCO's next [compost bin and rain barrel sale](#) is happening and also find resources on how and what you can compost at home.
- Plant potted mums in your garden and watch them come up next fall! Don't forget, if you have plants that come in plastic garden pots, you can put those empty plastic pots in the recycling bin or reuse them for starting seeds or for new plants. Find out what other products you can recycle... Check out the new recycling guidelines for our Lake County community at [recyclefirsttrashlast.org](#) or on the SWALCO website.
- For holiday party snacks or treats to hand out to trick-or-treaters that come to your doorstep, serve or hand out items like: boxes of organic raisins, snack packs of applesauce, real fruit strips or rolls, etc. One of my favorite finds... Trader Joe's organic lollipops which come in fabulous flavors like raspberry, watermelon, pomegranate and orange. They don't have artificial colors/dyes, are flavored with natural flavors, are gluten free, allergen free, certified organic and reasonable in price to boot. Try the recipe for roasted pumpkin seeds on page 3. Or, hand out planet-friendly non-food items like soy crayons, seed packets, or small toys made from recycled plastic.
- Plan green activities throughout the month of October and don't forget to have fun, be safe and have an **"eek-o-friendly" holiday!**



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PUTTING THE GREEN IN YOUR HALLOWEEN

Green Days October 2012

An important part of SWALCO's mission is to help educate the community about the 4Rs and to share information and ideas that will help support them.

One component of our educational efforts has been to develop helpful and informative articles and publications like this one that

our municipal communities, local organizations, businesses and community groups can reproduce and share with residents, employees, patrons and members, by including in their newsletters, email blasts, or by distributing, printing or posting on their websites, Facebook pages, etc. We encourage to reproduce and share this booklet in its entirety as there is a bounty

of helpful information. So today, with Halloween just around the corner, I'd like to share some fun ways to turn your Halloween a little greener this year. There are loads of ways to celebrate the holiday in a more sustainable and environmentally friendly fashion and I hope you will be able to try some of these enjoyable and inventive ways to celebrate.

Happy Halloween!
Merleanne Rampale,
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To contact Merleanne about this article or to learn more about Sustainability and Green Living, or more about SWALCO's programs and services, visit swalco.org, email mrampale@swalco.org; or call her or any of the SWALCO staff, at 847-336-9340.



GREENING YOUR HALLOWEEN

1. Think about ways to **Reduce** waste this Halloween.
2. Use found objects, or items you can **Reuse** and swap, for your costumes, decorations and trick-or-treat "bags".
3. **Recycle** at your parties and events. Check out the new Curbside Recycling Guidelines for Lake County. SWALCO has been working hard on a new educational recycling campaign to try to increase recycling in our community. Visit recyclefirsttrashlast.org for further information and to discover more about these important efforts and the ever expanding list of new things you can recycle in your curbside bin. You'll find a toolkit with loads of resources and materials you can use to help spread the word.
4. Whenever possible **Buy eco-friendly/recycled** (recycled content, sustainable, local & fair trade) treats and products.



COSTUMES

- Skip the purchased plastic and create costumes from things found at home or purchase from a thrift store. You might find a variety of costumes and decorations on sites like [Freecycle.org](http://freecycle.org) or [SWAP.com](http://swap.com). Check them out. Use items like sheets, boxes, old/unwanted clothing or shoes, and a variety of unwanted and found items around the house. If you have athletic shoes that are too far gone for any other use, bring them to one of [SWALCO's athletic shoe recycling and reuse](#) drop-off collections or sign your group up to collect shoes, learn more about recycling, participate in contest, win prizes and have fun.



- Host a costume swap at your school, at work or in your neighborhood.
- Use non-toxic cosmetics. If you have unwanted or expired cosmetics or personal care products, or other household chemical items, you can bring those to one of [SWALCO's HCW \(household chemical waste\) collections](#).
- Use items like reusable totes, pillowcases, or other reusable bags to collect candy and other Halloween treats and goodies. Decorate them with non-toxic paints and found items.

PARTIES AND DECORATING



- Reuse Halloween decorations and costumes as you can, from year to year. Or, if you're tired of the same old decorations you've used year after year, purchase "new to you" items from a resale or thrift store.
- Host a Halloween decorations swap (indoor and outdoor décor) in your neighborhood or community. You can have a lot of fun with this. Have nonworking household batteries in some of those decorations? Bring them to a SWALCO Residential Electronics Collection along with other broken and unwanted electronic items. Visit [SWALCO's Electronics Page](#) for a list of drop-off locations with dates and times and an expanded list of items you can bring.
- Consider decorating with materials found in nature.
- Make a Halloween Scarecrow, using materials you have at home or in the recycling bin.
- Throw a Green Halloween Party. Use soy or natural beeswax candles to light your pumpkins and spooky areas or try one of the newer LED lights and use rechargeable batteries. Don't forget the reusable silverware, plates and glasses.
- Serve sustainable treats (see below for ideas).

- Visit craft sites like allfreecrafts.com and kaboose.com for recycled Halloween crafts like egg carton spiders and bats, steel can luminaries and recycled milk carton pumpkins. There are great folding and other crafts for leftover candy wrappers too. I remember using this folding technique to make items like this one, when I was younger — check this out: [Candy Wrapper Crafts](#).
- Serve roasted pumpkin seeds: Combine 1 and 1/2 cups raw whole pumpkin seeds, 2 teaspoons melted butter or olive/vegetable oil, and 1 pinch salt. Spread seeds out on cookie sheet and bake at 300 for 45 minutes until golden brown. Add your favorite seasonings like garlic powder or nutmeg and cinnamon, or try grated hard cheeses like parmesan. Make them savory or sweet, if you dare!
- Before your party, clean with green cleaning products. Visit [swalco.org's](http://swalco.org) Green Cleaning pages for some recipes and information. Look fore more recipes and info to be added to this page in the near future.
- LED lights are a great option in addition to or instead of candles. They last as much as 133 times longer than incandescents and cost about 80% less to use. They're also safer around children than candles or regular bulbs. Visit HolidayLEDs.com and other LED shopping sites. Residents can also bring these household fluorescents and CFL light bulbs to a SWALCO Household Chemical Waste (HCW) collection along with other unwanted HCW products. Visit swalco.org for a list of items you can bring.

